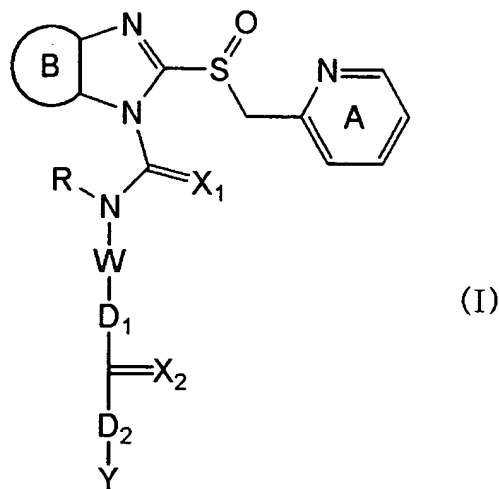
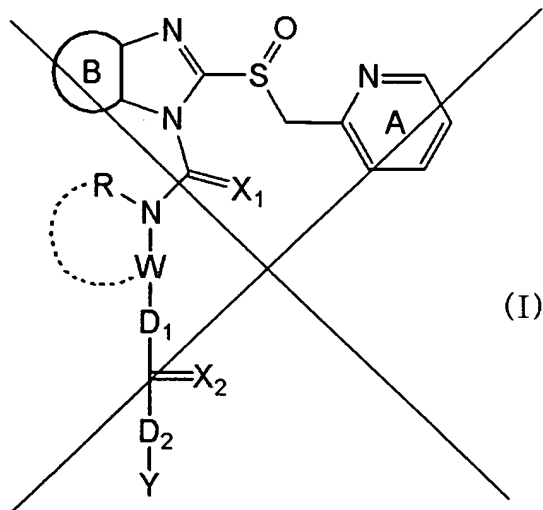


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An imidazole compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein

ring A is a pyridine ring optionally having substituents selected from

- (1) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, and
- (2) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from halogen atom(s) and C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group,

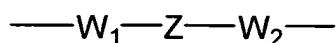
ring B is a benzene ring optionally having substituents selected from

C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by halogen atom(s),

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub>

are each an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

W is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group optionally having substituents selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy and ethoxycarbonyloxy or a divalent group represented by the formula:



wherein W<sub>1</sub> and W<sub>2</sub> are each a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group or a bond, Z is C<sub>6-14</sub> arene, an

oxygen atom,  $\text{SO}_n$  wherein  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2, or  $>\text{N-E}$  wherein  $\text{E}$  is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkanoyl group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an aralkyloxy carbonyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a lower alkylsulfinyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl group, a di-lower alkylsulfamoyl group, an arylsulfamoyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an arylcarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and when  $\text{Z}$  is an oxygen atom,  $\text{SO}_n$  or  $>\text{N-E}$ ,  $\text{W}_1$  and  $\text{W}_2$  are each  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkylene group ,

$\text{R}$  is a group selected from

- (1)  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group optionally substituted by  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl-carbonyloxy,
- (2)  $\text{C}_{3-10}$  cycloalkyl group, and
- (3)  $\text{C}_{6-14}$  aryl group optionally substituted by a group represented by  $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^2\text{R}^3$  (wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group),

~~$\text{R}$  and  $\text{W}$~~

~~may be bonded to each other,~~

$\text{D}_1$  is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or  $>\text{NR}_1$ ,

$\text{D}_2$

is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or  $>\text{NR}_1$  wherein each  $\text{R}_1$  is independently  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group[[,]], and

$\text{Y}$  is

a group selected from

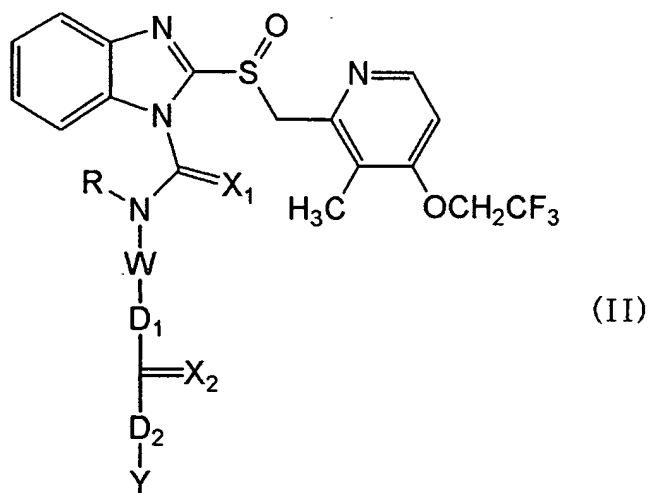
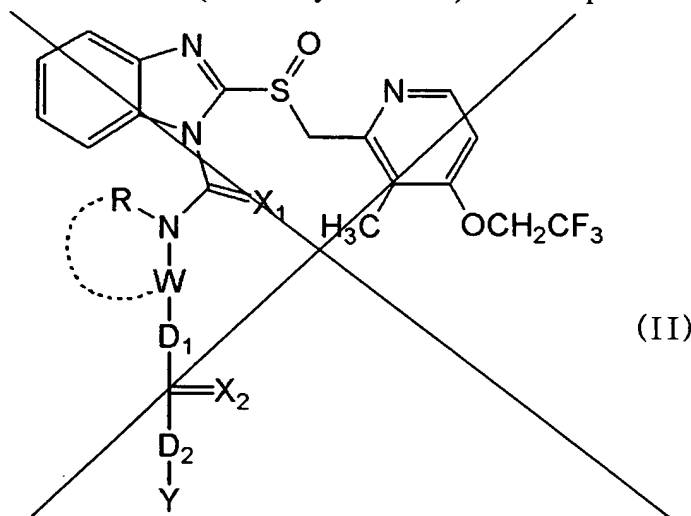
- (1)  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, ethoxycarbonyloxy group,  $\text{C}_{6-14}$  aryl group and a group represented by  $-\text{NR}^2\text{R}^3$  (wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group),
- (2)  $\text{C}_{3-10}$  cycloalkyl group,
- (3)  $\text{C}_{6-14}$  aryl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from (i) halogen atom and (ii)  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkoxy group optionally having halogen atom(s), and
- (4) tetrahydropyran,

or a salt thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is C<sub>6-14</sub> arene.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, which is represented by the formula (II):



wherein each symbol in the formula is as defined in claim 1.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are each an oxygen atom.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein D<sub>1</sub> is an oxygen atom and D<sub>2</sub> is a bond or an oxygen atom.

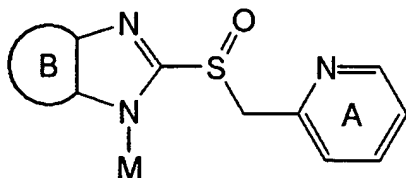
7. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein W is a divalent chain C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group optionally having substituents selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy and ethoxycarbonyloxy.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein W is an ethylene group.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is a group selected from  
(1) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ethoxycarbonyloxy group, C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group and a group represented by -NR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>3</sup> (wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group),  
(2) C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl group, and  
(3) C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from (i) halogen atom and (ii) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally having halogen atom(s).
11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are each an oxygen atom, D<sub>1</sub> is an oxygen atom and D<sub>2</sub> is a bond or an oxygen atom, W is an ethylene group, R is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, and Y is a group selected from (1) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ethoxycarbonyloxy group, C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group and a group represented by -NR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>3</sup> (wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group), (2) C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl group, and (3) C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from (i) halogen atom and (ii) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally having halogen atom(s).
12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, which is a compound selected from  
2-[methyl[[[(R)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl acetate,  
ethyl 2-[methyl[[[(R)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl carbonate,  
2-[methyl[[[(R)-2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimida

zol-1-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl tetrahydropyran-4-yl carbonate,  
 2-[methyl[[2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl tetrahydropyran-4-yl carbonate,  
 ethyl 2-[methyl[[2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl carbonate,  
 ethyl 2-[[[5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl](methyl)amino]ethyl carbonate,  
 2-[[[5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-yl]carbonyl](methyl)amino]ethyl acetate,  
 2-[methyl[[2-[[[3-methyl-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl]amino]ethyl acetate,  
 ethyl 2-[[[5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl](methyl)amino]ethyl carbonate,  
 ethyl 2-[[[(S)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl](methyl)amino]ethyl carbonate,  
 ethyl 2-[[[2-[[[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl](methyl)amino]ethyl carbonate, and  
 2-[[[5-(difluoromethoxy)-2-[[[3,4-dimethoxy-2-pyridyl]methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]carbonyl](methyl)amino]ethyl ethyl carbonate,  
 or a salt thereof.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A production method of a compound of claim 1, which comprises  
 (1) condensing a compound represented by the formula (III):



(III)

wherein

ring A is a pyridine ring optionally having substituents selected from

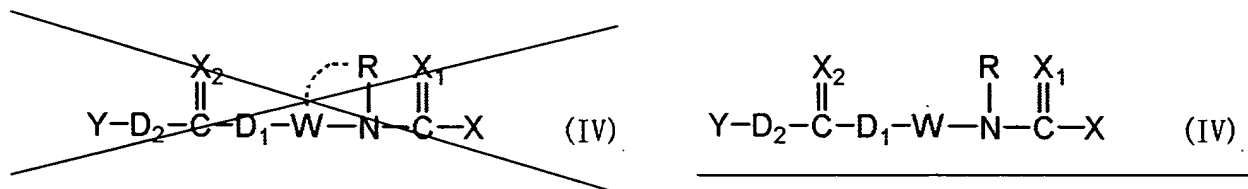
- (1) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, and
- (2) C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from halogen atom(s) and C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group,

ring B is a benzene ring optionally having substituents selected from

C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally having halogen atom(s), and

M is a hydrogen atom, a metal cation or a quaternary ammonium ion,

or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by the formula (IV):



wherein

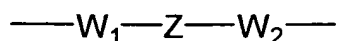
X is a leaving group,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub>

are each an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

W is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group optionally having substituents selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>

alkyl-carbonyloxy and ethoxycarbonyloxy, or a divalent group of the formula:



wherein  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are each a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene group or a bond, Z is  $C_{6-14}$  arene, an oxygen atom,  $SO_n$  wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, or  $>N-E$  wherein E is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkanoyl group, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, an aralkyloxy carbonyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a lower alkylsulfinyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl group, a di-lower alkylsulfamoyl group, an arylsulfamoyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an arylcarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and when Z is an oxygen atom,  $SO_n$  or  $>N-E$ ,  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are each  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene group,

R is a group selected from

- (1)  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group optionally substituted by  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-carbonyloxy,
- (2)  $C_{3-10}$  cycloalkyl group, and
- (3)  $C_{6-14}$  aryl group optionally substituted by a group represented by  $-CO-NR^2R^3$  (wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group),

~~R and W~~

~~may be bonded to each other,~~

$D_1$  is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or  $>NR_1$ ,

$D_2$  is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or  $>NR_1$  wherein each  $R_1$  is independently  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, and

Y is a group selected from

- (1)  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, ethoxycarbonyloxy group,  $C_{6-14}$  aryl group and a group represented by  $-NR^2R^3$  (wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group),
- (2)  $C_{3-10}$  cycloalkyl group,
- (3)  $C_{6-14}$  aryl group optionally having substituent(s) selected from (i) halogen atom and (ii)  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group optionally having halogen atom(s), and
- (4) tetrahydropyran, or

a salt thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of peptic ulcer in an animal, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

21-24. (Cancelled)